

WOULD YOU CRUCIFY HIM AGAIN?

Next Tuesday will mark the one thousand, nine hundred and fifty-sixth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The limited civilization into which He was born seems small and unimportant as compared to today's modern world, but that civilization had the honor of first-hand teachings of the Son of God. Yet, this same small group of people crucified Him.

Today, nearly 2,000 years later, His word is still taught and His promise to return is still preached wherever Christianity has reached.

If Jesus were born again this Christmas day of 1956 would He be accepted or would He be crucified again?

For instance, would we accept Him if He were born in a country other than the United States? In this day of skepticism would we even believe in Him if He were born in the United States?

Jesus was not a showman and today sensationalism is foremost to spread any word in our country. Would anyone take the time to listen to His quiet teachings.

Without a denominational faith would our churches accept Him or flagrantly brand Him an imposter. His denomination was that of God. His vestments those of a working man and His "church" that out doors where He could speak to the multitudes. Would you go sit on a hill-side to hear a sermon preached? His congregation was composed of the needy and poor—folks who in all probability had never heard a sermon before His coming. They wore no fine clothes and He took up no collection, yet He never wanted.

Jesus spent His time reaching sinners not Christians. How would He be looked on today if He chose to associate with the class of people that He did many years ago? How long would we believe in Him as the Son of God if he mingled with racketeers, crooked politicians, bootleggers and the like. Yet, in all probability, those people are the ones He would concentrate His teachings on. The church-goers would get less of his attention and how would they accept Him?

In this day of race problems, would all races accept Him, no matter which He chose to be born into? He is the King of all races and yet, would we listen to His word if He were anything but Anglo-Saxon?

It is not likely that Jesus would come to us as a dynamic business, political, or religious figure. It is more conceivable that, as before, He would make His appearance where He was least expected. The people of His time on earth refused to accept Him because they were expecting a mighty king to lead strong armies on earth instead of one who could, in His quiet way, lead them to Heaven.

It is more likely that if He were born again next Tuesday His following would be as small as before, and chances are He would be "crucified" again in some manner. But one thing we are sure of, His teachings would live on again and become as widespread as they are today from His last short life on earth.—(Editorial from the Chilton County News by former editor, Vernon E. Payne).

MILLION-DOLLAR MONTH BOOSTS MISSIONS WORK

NASHVILLE—(BP)—Another million-dollar month for the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program boosted the denomination's support of its home and foreign missions programs.

Treasurer Porter Routh said November Cooperative Program receipts were \$1,187,137. These were shared by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, with the Foreign Mission Board getting 75 per cent.

Total November giving to Southern Baptist Convention work reached \$1,322,148. This included also specially designated offerings. It did not, however, include any money given by Baptists to carry on their local church programs and their state organizations' work.

The Southern Baptist Convention entered the advance portion of its 1956 budget early in October when Cooperative Program gifts passed \$10 million. Entering the advance portion of the budget ends distribution of funds to all agencies except the mission boards.

To date, the two mission agencies have received \$2,075,769 out of advance program funds. This compares with \$1,410,489 at the same time last year.

Cooperative Program receipts for November, 1955, were \$856,116 and total giving to Southern Baptist Convention work was \$963,788.

Alabama contributed \$49,858 during November, 1956 to the Cooperative Program and \$4,360 for designated purposes. This was a total of \$54,218.

CHURCH GROUPS BACK MINISTER WHO ESCORTED NEGRO STUDENTS

CLINTON, Tenn. (RNS) — A white Baptist clergyman who was beaten by a group of pro-segregationists after he escorted six Negro students to integrated Clinton High School said here that "clergymen and laymen of every denomination have given my action moral support."

The Rev. Paul Turner, 33, pastor of First Baptist Church here, also said that many ministerial associations and councils of churches in this area had informed him that they had gone on record as sympathizing with the position he took.

He added that he had received literally thousands of wires and letters from individuals and groups—both civic and religious—saying that the assault had "awakened a national conscience" on the problem of school integration in the South.

His own church members, he said, were "98 per cent in total sympathy with what I did."

"In every active church in this area the large majority feel the same," the pastor added.

Mr. Turner said that minority groups in churches who participate in white citizens councils had substituted council meetings for church services. "For the most part," he said, "they are active in the citizens councils to the exclusion of church attendance. The citizens councils have become their religion."

The clergyman, who has repeatedly preached against violence in resolving the race issue and for law and order, said he would do "what I did again, even at the risk of being assaulted again."

"As long as the law is the law and Negro children wish to go to school—as they have a moral right to do—then they should be able to go unheckled and unhindered," he said. "On this principle I shall continue to maintain my stand."

Mr. Turner said the next step in Clinton was "up to the federal government." However, he urged the immediate formation of a leadership group comprising members of both races, "to think through together" the school situation here.

Shortly after the assault on the clergyman the school board here ordered the school closed. Herbert Brownell, Jr., U.S. Attorney General, announced that the federal government would prosecute all persons who tried to block integration of public schools here.

Witnesses to the attack on Mr. Turner said seven white men and two women pursued him "like a pack of hounds" and cornered him in front of the downtown telephone exchange. They knocked the clergyman down and beat him severely about the head before the police arrived. Two passersby who rushed to help him, the witnesses said, were hit by eggs.

Mr. Turner was taken into the office of a nearby doctor and it was found that he had deep cuts over the bridge of his nose and under one eye.

The school to which Mr. Turner and two volunteers escorted the Negro students has been a hotbed of racial tension for three months. The school's nine Negro students had remained away for four days because of threats and harassment by whites.

Following the assault upon him Mr. Turner, along with 12 other town leaders, got into a convoy of automobiles and drove to Knoxville to enter a plea with federal government officials to help them return to Clinton with some hope of establishing calm. They met with U.S. Attorney John G. Crawford and Federal Judge Robert L. Taylor, who had issued the original order directing integration of Negro students at Clinton High School. It was after this meeting that Attorney General Brownell made his announcement.

Typical of the action taken by church councils and ministerial associations commending Mr. Turner's action in escorting the Negro students was a resolution unanimously adopted by the Knoxville Ministerial Association.

"We wholeheartedly commend the Rev. Paul Turner and those citizens associated with him for the courageous stand they have taken on the side of the law and order in the Clinton High School situation," the resolution said.

"Moreover, we both deplore and condemn the attitude and violent action of those who seek to circumvent and defy the federal laws of our country."

Adoption of the resolution apparently came as a surprise to one Negro minister, the Rev. H. J. Bailey of Payne Avenue Baptist Church here. He was so moved that he broke down and wept.

"It touches my heart," he said, "for a Christian minister to lead little children to school . . . my heart is full . . . I feel today that we are Christian brothers together."

RELIEF FOR THE HUNGARIANS!

A Statement from Baptist World Alliance Headquarters

A "Baptist Relief Committee for Hungary," a sub-committee of the Relief Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, was organized on November 10, and officially recognized by the B.W.A. Administrative Committee on November 20.

The headquarters of the new committee are located in the First Baptist Church, Vienna, Austria. The committee will try to serve the needs of Baptists and others of the thousands of Hungarian refugees pouring into Austria. Beds for temporary accommodation are being set up in several centers. Contact has been made with the refugee camps. Assistance is being given to those who wish to emigrate to countries that have offered to take them.

The committee in Vienna will gladly channel the gifts of all Baptists who wish to contribute to Hungarian relief. Arrangements are being made to cooperate with the Red Cross and other agencies for the shipping of supplies into Hungary.

The quickest and most effective way to help is through cash gifts. Donors in North America may send money to the relief committees of their own conventions, or to the Baptist World Alliance, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 9, D. C. Donors in other continents may likewise send money to their own conventions, or directly to the treasurer of the Vienna Committee, Franz Birkner, Bankkonto Nr. 2346, Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Wien I, Austria.

The committee will help transmit and distribute supplies of food and clothing that may be donated. Needed items are: warm, clean usable clothing and shoes; blankets; dried milk and fruits, flour, sugar, and canned goods. Shipments should be sent to the "Baptist Relief Committee for Hungary," Mollardgasse 35, Wien VI/56, Austria. Freight should be prepaid. The shipments should be clearly marked "For Hungarian Relief," as several countries transport such shipments without charge.

The Baptist World Alliance Relief Department in Washington is securing assurances from sponsors who will help to bring refugees out of overcrowded Austria. Funds will be needed for this work also.

In this hour of desperate need let us be swift to heed the call for help.

EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR RETIRING EDITOR, B. H. DUNCAN

It was with heavy hearts that we listened to our beloved Dr. Duncan read his resignation as editor of the Arkansas Baptist before the November meeting of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Regretfully his resignation was accepted, for all of us knew he could no longer carry his heavy duties without further endangering his health. The members of the Board stood in tribute to Dr. Duncan, with a prayer of thanksgiving for the splendid service he rendered to the cause of Christ.

Dr. Duncan has made the Arkansas Baptist a leader among our Baptist state publications. The fact that circulation of the paper has increased from 29,800 on May 1, 1947, when he became editor, to 49,000 at the time of his retirement, speaks well for his work.

The contribution which Dr. Duncan has made through the Arkansas Baptist cannot be evaluated. His clear cut thinking, his keen analysis of the Baptist life, his forthright and kind manner of presentation, have done much to keep us on the biblical foundation of our Baptist-heritage. His love for people, second only to his love for Christ, characterized by his ready smile and warm reception, has been a blessing to all who know him. His zeal for truth and his denominational loyalty have inspired the hearts of multitudes.

The members of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention want to use this means to say publicly, "Dr. Duncan, we love you and appreciate your good work, and we pray God's richest blessings upon you."

Sincerely yours,
Luther F. Dorsey, Recording Secretary

As Southern Baptists we face a challenge to have churches here at home with such breadth of world vision, depth of personal evangelistic concern, and genuineness of Christian love for all races that any missionary can say to any national anywhere in this world, "I am proud to be a representative of those churches." —Elmer S. West, Jr., secretary for missionary personnel for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.